

151. PR: In your country, is there more need for land to be left in its natural condition or is there more need for land to be developed for housing and industry? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Even though our population is increasing and land is needed for housing and development. I would hope that our country could save the land in its natural state for future generations to enjoy. This land would be good for promoting tourism, for preserving the environment, and for remembering our history.

Although tourism has many negative side effects, it is an industry that can create enormous revenues. Tourism of course needs something to see. They would not come to our country to see rows of apartment buildings or new industrial parks. What is interesting for tourists is the pristine countryside that our country is known for.

Preserving the land as it is, would be good for the environment. More factories and other industries would further pollute our rivers and air. We need free and wide open spaces to make us feel like humans, not machines.

Untouched land reminds us of our history. When we walk through the countryside, we can imagine our ancestors on the same path. If we cover the earth with asphalt and concrete, we will lose touch with our past. We will forget our roots.

Preserving the land is good not only for the economy and environment, it is good for us as citizens of our soil. We must preserve what little we have left. Can we afford not to?

152 AD Many people have a close relationship with their pets. These people treat their birds, cats, or other animals as members of their family. In your opinion, are such relationships good? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I think being very close to a pet can be both a positive and a negative thing. Health professionals have concluded that having a pet is very healthy for everyone. People who have heart disease or similar health problems are often urged to get a pet because it can lower your blood pressure. However, some people get anxious about their pets. If you always worry about the pet getting lost or not getting the right food to eat, then that isn't healthy for you.

Many pets are very loving and it's easy to love them back. Some people, though, go overboard. They treat their pets like one of the family. Sometimes they even set a place for them at the table or give them their own rooms in the house. They treat them as if they were children. Some pets are, in fact, substitutes for children. People need to keep their perspective about their pets. Dressing a pet up in clothes like a child is not emotionally healthy. Pets

are animals and get confused if you expect them to act like human beings.

There are now stores devoted entirely to pets. They sell pet food, pet toys, pet clothes, pet homes. Pets should be given appropriate food, and they should have a few toys, since they need some enjoyment just like humans do. However, some pet owners spend hundreds of dollars on supplies for their pets. There are children in the world who don't have clothes or food or toys. It would be better to give some of that money to charity.

Feeling close to your pet can be very satisfying and healthy, as long as you don't overdo it.

153. EX Films can tell us a lot about the country where they were made. What have you learned about a country from watching its movies? Use specific examples and details to support your response.

Do you ever watch movies from other countries? Whenever I do, I think about how similar people really are all around the world. Even though the cultures and languages in those movies are different from mine, people all around the world are alike in their goals and emotions.

One time, I saw a movie made in china that showed parents helping their children with their homework. . My parents helped me the same way. Another time I saw a movie from Argentina. It showed school children playing hide and seek, which is a game I used to play with my friends during recess. Seeing these films demonstrated to me that education is a common goal in every country. Parents want their children to learn so their lives will improve. It also showed me that children in schools everywhere wants to play with their friends. Sometimes the games are similar to ours and sometimes they're different. Still, they all have the common purpose of fun and learning to work together.

Earning a living is another common goal. I've often seen that in movies about other countries. In some countries, people choose their careers from what they like and are good at. In other countries, careers are chosen for them following the traditions of their families. But in every country it seems that people care a great deal about earning a living, and working hard is respected.

Showing people having fun together is always an important part of any movies, no matter what country it comes from. People everywhere want to be entertained, and want to spend time with their families and friends. Different cultures sometimes enjoy different activities, but all cultures enjoy some form of sports, music and dancing.

The movies I've seen make it clear to me that no matter the cultural differences between countries, people everywhere have the same basic needs and goals.

154. PR Some students prefer to study alone. Others prefer to study with a group of students. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Study habits are a very individual thing. Some people like to study alone, while others like to study with a group. Personally, I would rather study alone, but I can see advantages to both ways.

It can be very helpful to study with other students. For one thing, you can exchange information about the topic. Not everyone is going to hear everything the teacher says in class. Comparing notes is a good way to be sure you get what you missed. You can also discuss various aspects of the topic. Other students can bring a different perspective to the discussion. They can point out things you may not have thought of , and help you make your arguments clearer.

Studying with other students can also help keep you focused on studying. If you're in a study group, you have to be at a particular place to study at a particular time. This is good discipline. The group reviews all the material available and then begins studying. There's not a lot of wasted time, if things work the way they should.

Of course, it doesn't help if you're in a study group that doesn't take studying seriously. Then you'd be much better off studying by yourself. If you're trying to study with friends and all they want to do is talk about other things, you'd get more done going somewhere to study by yourself. Being with people who don't want to study can mean you'll be constantly distracted. There'll be a lot of interruptions, and you won't gain much hearing their points of view on a study subject.

Finally, whether you study alone or in a group depends a lot on your own study habits and on your personality. If you need absolute quiet to study, then you're better off alone. If you're a very social person, then you're better off studying alone, too: you'll be too tempted to socialize instead of studying. This is the reason I prefer studying alone. When I'm with other people, I want to play, I don't want to work.

155. MA You have enough money to purchase either a house or a business. Which would you choose to buy? Give specific reasons to explain your choice.

If I had enough money to buy either a house or a business, I'd buy a house. A business may succeed or fail. It's also possible I might change my mind about what I wanted to do in business. However, a home is a lifetime gift to myself.

Right now I'm in small apartment, with barely enough room for everything. All my furniture and things I've accumulated since I left college barely fit. I have almost no closet space left. This means my clothes are always wrinkled because they're crushed together. I don't have any place to put my cleaning supplies, nor room for more than one set of sheets and

towels. A new house would mean a lot more room for all these things.

I love having plants around. It's very healthy for the air inside and it's cheerful to have living things growing in a room. I'd like to have a garden instead. That way I could grow a lot of different kinds of plants and flowers, and I could have a vegetable garden in the summer.

Besides having a garden, I'd like to have a backyard with lots of trees and a small fountain in the corner. I love watching birds and listening to them sing. On the windowsill of my apartment, I put out bird seed every morning. In the hot weather, I put out a shallow tin plate with water in it for birds. The trees and the fountain in my backyard would give me pleasure, but they'd really be for the birds. The trees would give them a place to nest, and the fountain would be a source of fresh water when it's hot.

Can you picture my dream house? A business would only give me money. A house would give me someplace special to be myself.